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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA

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January 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm back after a short hiatus from active service with the VVRC. I thought I would start with just coming to meetings, but the decision was made to run for Club President for the fourth time. So here I am, back in the saddle again.

Just a quick bio for the few who do not know me. I've been a licensed amateur radio operator for 12 years and a member of this club for all those years. My wife Diane K6LAZ is also a member of the club.

I operated a 220 MHz repeater from my QTH for several years with IRLP node #3242. We had Wednesday Night check-ins on the W6BRA (Bucktown Repeater Association), which was a lot of fun. I sold the repeater but I still have the node.

We have a lot of things planned for the club this year, hopefully it will all come together in the coming months. More to come on that subject.

Before the first meeting of the year, a few of us are going to meet for dinner at Napoli Pizzeria, 2030 Nut Tree Road, Vacaville, CA at 6:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

Hope to see you all at the meeting Thursday, 01/09/2014, Elmira FireHouse, at 7:00 PM.

73, Mike W6MAV

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The Feedline

As the 2013 year draws to a close, this is my last blog as the VVRC club president. I truly wish the very best to the New Year's elected club officers and directors and like I have commented to others, this radio club has a lot of potential. To the new incoming club president, Mike, W6MAV, I want to wish you the very best in taking over the reins as the new club president and I look forward to watching this club be all it can be! You know fellow hams, this year's Christmas dinner & Party was not to be. It was very difficult to setup a reservation at a local dinner house when only 3 members out of 31 were able to commit. I really wanted the dinner to be a good event, but when I can't confirm but 3 members, the restaurant wasn't really able to give up a reserved space for only 3. My guess for a great many no shows is that everyone had other plans besides the sixwho confirmed right away they weren't coming.

In the new year, perhaps I and Brian, KK6BXP can try and coordinate ourselves to put on a good working digital radio demo unlike how the recent demo turned out which wasn't what I had envisioned. He was prepared, but my repair work kept me from putting together what I wanted for the digital demo. The survey I conducted will be turned over the newly elected club officers and what they do or do not do with the data is entirely up to them. I'm hoping that Field Day 2014 will happen and that a great many of this club's members participate. And I'd like to see this club involved with more community events if that is possible. This club has potential.

Well, that's all I have right now. I've been stricken with a new flu strain and bronchitis since Christmas Eve along with some other problems. I got my flu shot this year

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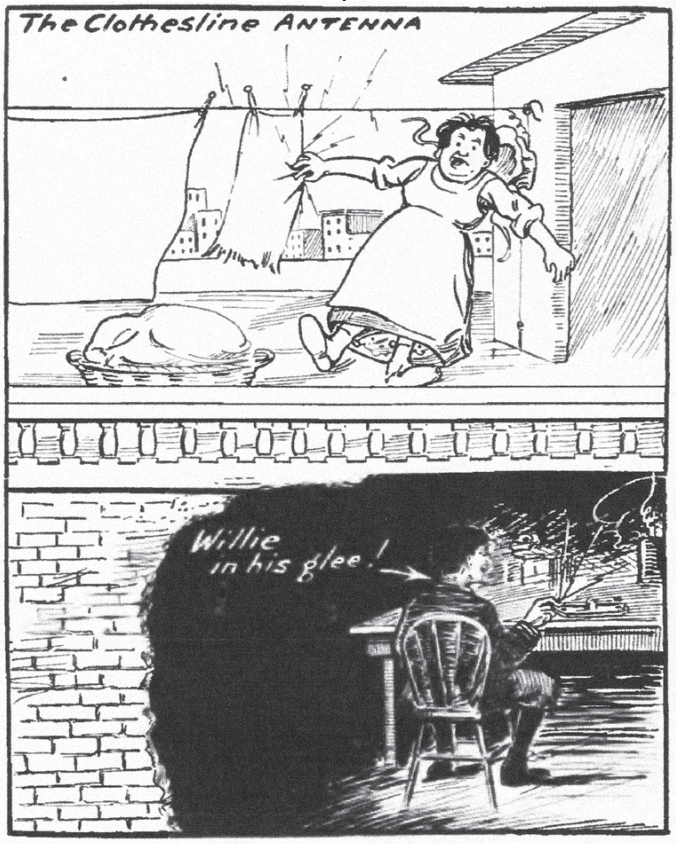
HAM ANTENNAS

By W. J. Howell

From the: ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, January, 1918

AERIALS? Sure we know what they are, you mean those wires strung up in the air on top of the house, and that in some way or other send and receive electro-magnetic waves, or at least did before the order to remove them which makes the top of the house look respectable now, but say, between you and me and the lamppost, an aerial is the cause of more funny business and trouble that ever was visited on the poor lads that take up wireless. How so? you ask. Well, it happened this way, at least in my experience, and believe me, it has run from anything to everything.



" . . . Speaking of Using Phoney Stunts for Aerials Reminds Me of One Stunt I Tried. This Was to Put Insulators in the Wire Clothes Lines on the Roof and Use Them for Sending and Receiving. All Went Well Till the Maid Got the Surprise of Her Life. Willie Was Calling His Pal—Via Wireless."

To start this line of chatter right, I should say that I started in the "Ham" class somewhere along the middle of the year 1909, and of course put up an aerial of two aluminum wires forty feet long on two poles ten feet high, nailed to the chimneys.

But it so happened that I had nailed said poles to the top of chimneys that have a nice heavy granite block on the top, three feet by one and one-half feet, and of course, desiring to have the aerial up as high as possible, I had only allowed the pole to over-lap about a foot.

The reason for this long description is apparent when things begin to happen, and things did start with a wallop. It began the Saturday afternoon that Teddy returned from Africa and took the form of a beautiful storm right in off the old Atlantic.

Barnum and Bailey's Circus was flooded while it was up at the Polo Grounds and it seemed the animals were raising the dickens because of all the things Teddy did to their friends at home. The wind blew and the New York City College had a bill for a new flag pole the very next day. By all the laws of Hamville my poles should have stayed up, but I guess they wanted to do a little celebrating on their own hook, and they certainly did, for one pole goes over, and from the previous description it will be seen that the pole acted just like a big lever, thereby prying the granite block off, letting it drop a mere distance of live feet, gaining speed and weight and ending up by putting a hole in the tin roof, which, of course, let the rain in and our ceiling looked like a sponge.

Lots of fun, that finished off with an order from the owner of the house that Willy should not erect any more aerials on the house top. Things looked gloomy alright till the time when the roof was fixt and the owner discovered that the house needed a chimney of tin for the main smoke outlet. This was put up and stood some ten feet tall with plenty of guy wires, which of course did not worry me in the least, for I took the wires off of the nails and put tape on the nails before putting the wires back in place, and signals came in just about the same. But the joke of the whole thing was that the

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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Viera, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

owner lived on the ground floor and shortly after the smoke stack was put up, said owner looks up the airshaft, sees the wires from the chimney, gets excited and sends the janitor up to cut Willy's aerial that hung in the well—I mean airshaft. He was one of those rare specimens of stupidity' and cut the wires as ordered with the result that the house blame near needed a new chimney.

This was my clue to ask the owner if he would be so kind as to let me fix the same and of course Amateurs will not need to ask why.

Another stunt I tried was to have a curtain roller mounted on the house about six feet above the fire escape and let it take up the aerial of tour wires that I had rigged up, to pull out on the clothes line when it was not being used. This worked, but the aerial was only about twenty feet long and so the signals did not come in very well at that time, altho I suppose that if I had had the "real sets" of today, I should have had "phenom" results. After this idea I tried a wire forced into the space between the porcelain coping on the top of the brick walls of the house and was able to receive a fair amount with it. These experiments all took place during the days of old W. A. and N. Y. which gave us amateurs plenty of juice for testing purposes, if you lived anywhere in the vicinity of said stations.

Later on I was able to put an aerial on the house next door and it was some antenna, believe me.

Forty feet long, spreaders four feet and had four wires, these being strung about ten feet above the roof, one end hooked to a sky-light and the other to the top of a dumb-waiter shaft. I was

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THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

in luck when I could get "Key West" on galena with home-made instruments and seventy - five ohms built into the craziest pair of ear-laps you ever saw.

Things went along fine until something happened and the aerial pulled or tript one of the Navy Yard's messages and I had a fanlight to pay for. Oh, it's a great life if your aerial don't come down.

After a while I became acquainted with a chap who lived about four hundred feet away and we put up a wire for telephone and telegraph work. The results were fine and the wire also acted as a great aerial; in fact, we even went so far as to be able to both receive at the same time and talk about the way the fellow was sending by using the telephone, altho situated two blocks apart. Along about that time Sayville began sending press at fifteen words per minute, which was then about the speed limit of yours truly, while my friend was right there when it came to copying WHB at about twenty to twenty- - five per minute.

Now both stations had the dodgasted habit of sending at the same time and generally

the stuff was different, so by sticking a variable condenser in the .ground wire my friend was able to tune to 600 meters for WHB and I got Sayville on about 1800 meters, and if I remember rightly, at the same time, so nothing was mist. Of course, if either of us varied our tuning arrangement, it threw the other fellow out a little, but this was easily overcome by trial and then leaving the set tuned.

One advantage at the time was that the other chap could not tune up to Sayville, so if he wanted to copy the stuff, I used to receive it on my set, still using the 'phone wire and then hold the receiver to the transmitter for him to hear. Talk about duplex working and phoney stuff; we had the time of our lives monkeying with that wire strung along the edges of the roof.

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Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

Putting up aerial masts seems to be my middle name and I have .gone thru the stages of the game where Willy goes up on the roof every five minutes to look at his wires (and the more he has the better), to the point where one lonely wire constitutes the antenna and the only time I've looked at it was when stuff didn't come in.

Speaking of using phoney stunts for aerials reminds me of one stunt I tried which worked fine. This was to put insulators in the wire clothes lines on the roof and use them for sending and receiving. All went well for some time till the maid came down stairs and said that the clothes were sparking, and every time she touched them she got a shock. I had to go up with her in order to prove that nothing was wrong and that she only imagined it. Some fun, but say, when wet sheets were hung up signals came in better and if you wanted to know if the clothes were dry, just listen in and you could tell by the way signals died out that the sheet was dry. Guess I will have to take out a patent on that idea.

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WIRELESS OUTFIT ON MOVING VAN TRACES MESSAGE

From "The Electrical Experimenter, May, 1917

After a search of three months for an amateur wireless operator who sent out unsigned "SOS" messages in the neighborhood in New York and caused great annoyance to the New York Navy Yard and navy vessels

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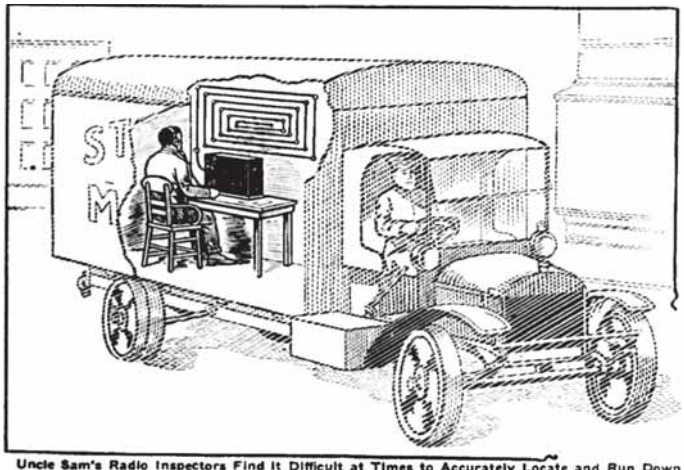
NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW



Uncle Sam's Radio Inspectors Find It Difficult at Times to Accurately Locate and Run Down Stations which Disobey the Law, but a Radio Set and Aerial Erected Inside an Auto Van Helped to Solve One Problem.

the federal authorities recently arrested Wilham F. Eckoff, sixteen years old, who had a wireless station on the roof of his home in Brooklyn.

When the messages were first heard there were reports in shipping circles of submarines operating near New York. After several of these calls stations nearby calls nearby stations recognized them as the work of an amateur. The New York Herald's wireless station worked with the operators at the New York Navy Yard in an effort to locate the station. The log at the Herald's wireless station shows that these distress messages were sent at all hours of the night. The mysterious operator used the calls of the Navy Yard and naval vessels.

Louis K. Krumm, chief radio inspector of the Department of Commerce, engaged a moving van and installed in it a small wireless set which could detect messages within the radius of only a block. Operators had traced the messages to Brooklyn, and with the moving van, Mr. Krumm went about Brooklyn until he arrived in front of the Court Street house.

It is alleged that Eckoff used a United States code signal on the night of January twenty-first last, sending an "SOS" call which which was picked up by the Herald station and relayed to the super-dreadnought Arizona at the New York yard.

Eckoff was arraigned before United States Commissioner Louis Rick and admitted he had been sending messages, but asserted that if he had used the United States code he had done it innocently, for he did not understand the code thoroughly enough to commit a nuisance.

The efficiency of such portable radio stations has been markedly improved in recent years by the advent of spiral aerials.

THE BIT BUCKET

Sun has 'flipped upside down' as new magnetic cycle begins

By TOMAS JIVANDA
Sunday 29 December 2013

The sun has "flipped upside down", with its north and south poles reversed to reach the midpoint of Solar Cycle 24, Nasa has said.

The sun's magnetic field has fully reversed its polarity, marking the midpoint of Solar Cycle 24, which will be completed in 11 years time

Now, the magnetic fields will once again started moving in opposite directions to begin the completion of the 22 year long process which will culminate in the poles switching once again.

"A reversal of the sun's magnetic field is, literally, a big event," said Nasa's Dr. Tony Phillips.
"The domain of the sun's magnetic influence (also known as the 'heliosphere') extends billions of kilometers beyond Pluto. Changes to the field's polarity ripple all the way out to the Voyager probes, on the doorstep of interstellar space."

To mark the event, Nasa has released a visualisation of the entire process.

At the beginning, in 1997 the video shows the sun in Solar Cycle 23 with its positive polarity on the top (the green lines), and the negative polarity on the bottom (the purple lines).

Each set of lines gradually move toward the opposite pole, showing a complete flip around 2002, completing the sun's previous cycle.

Both set of lines representing the opposing magnetic fields then begin to work their way back, to culminate in the latest flip.

"At the height of each magnetic flip, the sun goes through periods of more solar activity, during which there are more sunspots, and more eruptive events such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections," said Nasa's Karen C. Fox.

"Cosmic rays are also affected," added Dr. Phillips. "These are high-energy particles accelerated to nearly light speed by supernova explosions and other violent events in the galaxy."

CQ Realigns Publications, Announces New "CQ Plus" Digital Supplement

From: CQ Communications, Inc.

CQ Communications, Inc. has realigned its roster of publications and is launching an exciting new online supplement to its flagship magazine, CQ Amateur Radio.

"The hobby radio market is changing," said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, "and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby." CQ Communications is currently the only publisher in the United States serving the broad radio hobby, from broadcast band DXing to amateur radio moonbounce and satellite communications. CQ itself has been amateur radio's leading independent voice for seven decades.

Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, said Ross, content from the magazine's three sister publications, Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online, will be incorporated into CQ's digital edition as a supplement to be called "CQ Plus." With this change, hobby radio enthusiasts of all types will be able to go to a single source - CQ - for articles on the broader aspects of hobby radio, from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as amateur radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently Editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, will be Editor of CQ Plus.

"Our primary audience is ham radio operators," explained Ross, "but very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs. Most of us started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DXers, CBers or scanning enthusiasts.

Many continue to be involved in many different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to amateur radio."

"By consolidating four specialized publications into one," Ross continued, "we will be better able to keep these multidimensional readers informed on all aspects of the radio hobby while simultaneously exposing those who are not hams to all the excitement and opportunities that amateur radio has to offer. We see this as a win-win for all of our

Continued on page 6

CQ Magazine-Continued from page 5

readers!

The expanded material will be an integral part of the digital edition of CQ, and will be included as part of a standard digital subscription. Each month's digital edition will simply continue beyond where the print edition ends, offering supplemental material on all aspects of hobby radio communication and will include selected columns carried over from the other magazines. The added digital content will make full use of the multimedia opportunities presented by digital publications.

What happens to my Pop'Comm, WorldRadio, CQ VHF subscription?

Current print edition subscriptions to Popular Communications and CQ VHF and will be converted to CQ Amateur Radio print edition subscriptions, on an issue-for-issue basis - and receive CQ's digital edition (which includes CQ Plus) at no additional charge.

Current digital edition subscriptions to Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online will be converted to CQ Amateur Radio's digital edition subscriptions (which includes CQ Plus) on an issue-for-issue basis.

Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online subscribers who already have a CQ print and/or digital subscription will have their subscription's expiration date(s) extended accordingly.

There's no need to wait to see the great variety of articles that will be featured each month in the new CQ and CQ Plus.

The Feedline-Continued from page 1

just like I always do, but yet I feel as though I never got the flu shot in the first place. Combine that with a virus in my lungs thus giving a good internal muscle bruising doesn't exactly make one feel at their best while trying to compose this final blog.

Be well and involve yourself in amateur radio!

73; Marcus K. Maclean, KI6WDX

It's Time To Renew Your Dues

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____

Optional ARRL membership

ARRL dues	$37.00
Total	

Paid by CASH: Check #

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143